

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10

EUR-25 IO-13 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /185 W
----- 127856

R 191131Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4406

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, BA, KU

SUBJ: VISITS OF SHAIKH ISA OF BAHRAIN AND SHAIKH KHALIFA
AL-THANI, QATARI CHIEF OF STATE

REF: JIDDA 2981

SUMMARY: SHAIKH ISA OF BAHRAIN CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL STATE
VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA; SAG SHOWS INTEREST IN DEVELOPING
CLOSE TIES WITH GULF ARAB NEIGHBORS (EXCEPT FOR UAE).
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING RELIABLE SOURCES, VISITS THIS PAST WEEK OF
BAHRAIN CHIEF OF STATE AND QATARI ARMED FORCES COMMANDER
TOGETHER WITH SULTAN'S DHAHRAN SPEECH (REFTEL) IS SAUDI
REPLY TO INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN LAST MONTH BY KUWAITI FONMIN
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WHICH AIMED AT STRONGER ECONOMIC/POLITICAL TIES AMONGST

GULF ARAB MINI-STATES, BUT WHICH EXCLUDED SAUDI ARABIA.

2. SHAIKH ISA OF BAHRAIN--WHO HAD APPARENTLY GIVEN POSITIVE RESPONSE TO KUWAITIS--CAME TO JIDDA WHEN HE LEARNED OF RUFFLED SAUDI FEELINGS. EMBASSY HAS HEARD, AND WARMTH OF VISIT TENDS CONFIRM, THAT BAHRAINI-SAG RELATIONS NOW BACK ON TRACK.

3. RE CONCRETE RESULTS VISIT, END-OF-VISIT COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF BAHRAIN DRYDOCK AND BUILDING OF BRIDGE LINK BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES; FONMIN OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, INDICATES PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENT BOTH THESE PROJECTS SOME WAY DOWN THE ROAD.

4. DISCUSSING GULF SITUATION, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED READINESS OF TWO STATES TO COOPERATE AND COORDINATE "WITH THEIR BROTHERS" IN THE GULF AREA IN ORDER FORESTALL ANY DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS AND TO REALIZE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. NEWSPAPERS ALSO NOTED TWO LEADERS AGREED TO FORM JOINT COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, TO IMPLEMENT SUCH COOPERATION.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD, THOUGH IT UNCONFIRMED, THAT KUWAITIS PLANNING SOON TO SEND HIGH-RANKING EMISSARY TO REAFFIRM GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. (FONMIN OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SAG HAS NOTED WITH DISPLEASURE ABSENCE OF ANY HIGH RANKING KUWAITI VISITOR TO KINGDOM IN PAST YEAR.)

6. COMMENT: SAG SHOWS CONTINUING INTEREST IN CLOSE TIES WITH GULF ARAB NEIGHBORS (WITH EXCEPTION OF UAE).
THACHER

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